

The Congressman met with a number of faculty from the University's Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) to learn more about SCI's successes in working with Oregon communities over the past two years. In its inaugural year of 2009, SCI's partnership with the City of Gresham contributed more than 50,000 student, staff and faculty hours of labor to the City. Thirteen SCI-sponsored courses covered everything from data analysis and community engagement to landscape design and the use of natural light within city buildings. The completed work contributed to plans for the Rockwood Town Center, a new light rail station, and Gresham Crossings.

SCI's partnership with the City of Salem in 2010 continued a winning trend, garnering the 2011 Prize for the Creative Integration of Practice and Education, awarded by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, for its design of the City of Salem's Police Station.

Congressman Blumenauer then addressed the 16th annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, a gathering of more than 1000 students and faculty from across the US. Speaking on "Saving the World – One Bicycle at a Time," the Congressman talked about the impact of a simple machine to transform transportation policies, personal and public health, economic vitality, and the livability of our communities. He also urged attendees to focus on performance-based standards, rather than a regulatory process, to address climate change and improve our efforts to achieve true sustainability.